

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT
NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
 (PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
 US Department of Commerce
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office, PCT
 2011 South Clark Place Room
 CP2/5C24
 Arlington, VA 22202
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 April 2001 (02.04.01)	To:
International application No. PCT/US00/14615	Applicant's or agent's file reference 1688 PCT
International filing date (day/month/year) 26 May 2000 (26.05.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 May 1999 (28.05.99)
Applicant JANGBARWALA, Juzer	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

28 December 2000 (28.12.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

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2. The election was
 was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Jean-Marie McAdams Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 8 OCT 2001

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1688 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/14615	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 MAY 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 MAY 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): C25C 1/12, 7/08; C25B 9/12 and US Cl.: 205/349, 586; 204/238, 240, 273, 276		
Applicant JANGBARWALA, JUZER		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28 DECEMBER 2000	Date of completion of this report 24 AUGUST 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer DONALD R. VALENTINE Telephone No. (703) 308-0661
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	DEBORAH THOMAS PARALEGAL SPECIALIST

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/14615

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages 1-19, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE

 the claims:

pages 20-24, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE

 the drawings:

pages 1-5

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/five NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/14615

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-34</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-34</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-34</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-34 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method and system for reducing ions in solution having an anode and cathode in a reservoir and in fluid communication with a fluid source, power source to apply current to anode and cathode said filter in fluid communication with the reservoir and including a membrane, and return means for returning a retenate to the reservoir.

Claims 1-34 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest, as is urged by applicant, an electrochemical cell reservoir adapted to contain a solution, an anode and cathode in said reservoir, a filter in fluid communication with the reservoir, said filter being operative to retain a first portion of the solution having a first concentration of metal ions and to remove a second portion of the solution having a second concentration of metal ions lower than the first concentration, and having return means to return the first portion of the solution to said reservoir.

Claims 1-34 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), because the method and system have industrial applicability in the field of electrowinning of metal ions from aqueous solutions.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

US 5,149,411 A (CASTLE) 22 SEPTEMBER 1992, see Fig. 4; col. 2, lines 18-45; and col. 4, lines 24-68.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/14615

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :C25C 1/12, 7/08; C25B 9/12
 US CL : 205/586, 349; 204/276

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 205/586, 349, 82, 560; 204/276, 238, 240, 261

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,183,544 A (WEBER ET AL.) 2 February 1993, col.4, lines 12-47, col.3, lines 19-45.	1-34
Y	US 5,476,591 A (GREEN) 19 December 1995, col.3, line 49-col.4, line 61, col.11, lines 46-57, Figure 2.	1,3-5,9, 13- 17, 19-22,25, 26,28-34
Y	US 4,431,496 A (REMICK) 14 February 1984, col.4, lines 19-22.	8
Y	US 4,960,584 A (BROWN) 2 October 1990, col.1, line 65-col.2, line 17).	12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
25 JULY 2000	29 AUG 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer CHRISTOPHER M. KEEHAN
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